

News, Updates, & More

Varner Family Genealogy

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FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Prior newsletters and other family genealogy information is found on the Varner Family website.

<http://brucevarner.com/VarnerGenealogy.htm>

QUESTIONS / NEWS

Q: Betty Sue Varner Held asked: In the photo of Williams family...Do you know what the "ribbon" on Alta Varner (Williams) and her sister represents (young women)? My sister thinks it maybe a organization they or their parents belonged to?

A: I do not have an answer to this question. The photos discussed where in the December 2017 newsletter. If anyone has an idea, please let us know!

George Varner of Missouri Direct Line DNA

No updates

Riggs/Varner Connection

See main article

The Berry Family Cemetery (Berry's, Piles, Newton's, Riggs)

In a previous monthly newsletter, (*Varner Genealogy Newsletter, Volume 5, Issue 9*) a question touched on the Berry Family Cemetery. Of course the surname Berry is found in this cemetery, but some Piles are also buried there. Also in that same newsletter was mention of some Piles family members. I am going to touch only briefly on the Berry family history, because I have not studied them sufficiently. I would really like to see someone who has pursued the Berry's provide an article that I could publish in a future issue. For this issue I will focus mainly on the Piles family, and there connection specifically to Edmund Riggs and also the connections to Newton's.

You might wish to re-read the whole newsletter (September 2017), and particularly the article "*Another Look at Our Family's Time in Miller County*". It will be helpful to more precisely understanding the area of Berry Family Cemetery, and the original ownership of surrounding land.

In October of last year Dee Hunt Bremer, Linda Newton Cushman, Gary Cushman and I scouted several cemeteries in Miller County. The Berry Family Cemetery was first among them.

A cursory overview of the Berry family must be made to understand relationships.

Berry is one of the earliest family names in the settlement of land now making up Miller County. The book "History of Cole, Moniteau, Morgan, Benton, Miller, Maries, and Osage Counties, Missouri" published by The Goodspeed Publishing Co. Chicago, 1889, mentions several early settler names in that area which is now Miller County.

...." Land Entries.-Although a few settlers were in Miller territory before July 20, 1826, no land entries had been made before that time...."¹" The entries during the 1830's are here given, the figures indicating the year of the decade:....Calvin Riggs ('38), Owen Riggs ('38)....W. C. Newton ('37),....P. H. Berry ('34),².... Edward Riggs ('38),....³

As can be seen from these entries, the Berry, Riggs, and Newton families are all some of the earliest settlers in the county, and they were neighbors.

Phillip Berry's land is where the family cemetery was place. Phillip is in fact buried there. We will discuss how the

¹ "History of Cole, Moniteau, Morgan, Benton, Miller, Maries, and Osage Counties, Missouri" published by The Goodspeed Publishing Co. Chicago, 1889...., page 533

² History of...., page 534

³ History of...., page 535

Berry and other families are intertwined, but first the cemetery itself.

The cemetery sits near the crest of a hill, northwest of and overlooking the Osage River. This piece of land is owned by Sam Schwaller and has been in the Schwaller family for 3 generations. There appears to be several additional graves in the cemetery, but only the following graves are identifiable. I have listed those name below, by date of death:

<Phillip H. Berry, 11/19/1805-4/8/1855
<Charles W. Piles, 3/18/1820-10/5/1870
<Joseph I. Berry, 6/13/1874-7/13/1874
<Emily P. Piles, abt. 40 years old, d.
9/23/1876
<Florance V. Berry, 10/13/1876-
4/5/1879
<James C. Piles, 10/3/1828-4/10/1882
<H.E. Berry, 3/11/1885-10/9/1885
<Unk Abbott, ??/??/????-7/27/1888
<Rachel Berry, 1806-3/2/1904

The main purpose of this article is to study whether Edmund Riggs, who's burial location is unknown, might be in one of the unmarked graves in the Berry Cemetery?

Why is this a possible? Because of the family connections. Buckle your seat belts because you will need a program to tell the players.....

I have documented these connections at the end of this newsletter in a different format. So if the following explanation

is not clear, maybe the other format will make more sense. Also, I am far from an expert on the Berry, Newton, and Piles families. If you see inaccuracies in my statements please let me know.

Phillip Berry was apparently married 1st to a Mary Polly Jenkins (-). After her death Phillip married Rachel Jenkins Newton.

As an additional note to identify connections, Rachel's sister Nancy Newton (1837-Abt. 1857?), married John J. Denton (1821-1862). Nancy Ann Varner (1841-1934) is listed in the 1860 census nearby as a domestic living in the Denton household.

Emily P. Berry is a daughter of Phillip Berry & Rachel. Emily married James Piles. We identified that James C. Piles and his wife Emily are buried in this cemetery.

James Piles father, Charles W. Piles is also one of the identified burials in the cemetery. Charles daughter, (and James sister) Mary Ann Piles (1826-1903)⁴, was the wife of Edmund Riggs (1819-1877).

James Piles was appointed administrator for the estate of Edmund Riggs after his death in 1877.

So we have established a close relationship between these families. We

⁴ Mary Ann Piles Riggs moved late in life to Olympia, Washington, with family. Where she died on 6/27/1903.

have searched other known cemeteries in the surrounding area.

None of those cemeteries seem to be a logical location for the grave of Edmund Riggs. This one does. So, we are far from sure, but it does seem to make sense that this is the final resting place for Edmund Riggs.

Who else is buried in this cemetery? Is Israel Newton (Abt. 1790-Abt. 1838) buried there? Maybe we will never know. Maybe in the future others will be identified, but the search continues.

Happy New Year!

Bruce Varner

See Next Page

Berry, Newton, Piles, Riggs, Varner Family Connection

Israel Newton, (Abt. 1790 – Abt. 1838)

m. in 1821, #1 Sarah Musick (1795-1836)

William Cyrus Newton (1823-)

Sarah Ann Newton (1824-)

Julina Jane Newton (1827-)

Charlotte Newton (1829-)

Abraham Newton (1830-)

m. in 1836, #2 **Rachel Jenkins** (1806-3/2/1904)[Rachel m. #2 Phillip Berry]

Nancy Newton (1837-)

m. #1 John J. Denton [Nancy Varner lived with, in 1860 Census]

m. #2 Milton Stapp

Phillip Hawkins Berry, (11/19/1805 – 4/8/1855)

m. #1 Mary Polly Jenkins (-)

m. #2 **Rachel Jenkins** (Newton)

Emily P. Berry (Abt. 1836-9/23/1876)

Charles W. Piles, (3/18/1820 – 10/5/1870)

m. **Unknown**

James C. Piles (10/3/1828-4/10/1882)

m. **Emily P. Berry** (Abt. 1836-9/23/1876) [Daughter of Phillip Berry]

Mary Ann Piles (2/22/1826-6/27/1903)

Edmund Riggs, (1819 – 1877)

m. **Mary Ann Piles** (2/22/1826-6/27/1903)

George Varner, (Abt. 1789 – Abt. 1861)

m. Harriet Owens (Abt. 1817-Abt. 1861)

Thomas J. Varner (1836-)

George Washington Varner (1838-)

Edward D. Varner (2/20/1839-1/8/1916)

Nancy Ann Varner (3/27/1841-7/22/1934) [**Edmund Riggs** fathered her children]

Elizabeth Varner (11/1842-12/25/1929)

Samuel Philip Varner (1846-1896)

Francis Marion Varner (1/1847-9/11/1904)

Glenn Varner (1852-)

John D. Varner (8/29/1854-3/10/1929)

Cynthia Varner (2/10/1856-3/3/1929)